

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled).

16. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

forming a first layer for a multi-layer optical disc, the first layer comprising a first substrate with a sequence of pits and lands which define which stores a first set of user data and a table of contents (TOC) for the disc; ~~and~~

forming a second layer for the disc configured to be aligned adjacent the first layer, the second layer comprising a second substrate with a sequence of pits and lands which define and which stores a second set of user data and an identifier tag ~~which identifies the second layer as corresponding to the first layer;~~

recovering the identifier tag from the second layer using a readback system which reads the second substrate;

using the recovered identifier tag to access a database stored in computer memory to retrieve information from the database associated with the second layer; and

using the retrieved information to verify the second layer corresponds to the first layer.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising a subsequent step of attaching the second layer to the first layer.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising forming a third layer for the disc configured to be aligned adjacent the second layer, the third layer comprising a third substrate with a sequence of pits and lands which define which stores a third set of user data and a second identifier tag which, via said database, identifies the third layer as corresponding to the first and second layers.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising using the readback system of the recovering step to test the second layer for defects prior to attachment of the second layer to the first layer, identifier tag to test the second layer apart from the first layer.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising using the retrieved information identifier tag to identify a revision level of the second set of user data.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the identifier tag on the second layer is characterized as a second identifier tag, wherein the pits and lands of the first layer further define a first identifier tag different from the second identifier tag, and wherein the method further comprises using the computer system to uniquely assign the first and second identifier tags to the respective first and second layers, apparatus of claim 1 further including said second stamper, wherein the first and second stampers are further

configured to be used to form the respective first and second layers of the disc in a layer fabrication process.

Claim 22 (Cancelled).

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the second layer comprises a middle area, a program area and a lead out area, and wherein both the second set of user data and the identifier tag are located within said program area, multi-layer optical disc of claim 8, wherein the first and second layers are each embedded within the optical disc and separated by an intermediary layer of epoxy.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, multi-layer optical disc of claim 8, wherein the second layer does not store a TOC for the disc.

25. (Currently amended) The multi-layer optical disc of claim 8, wherein the first set of data comprises a first program area content, and the second set of data comprises a second program area content method of claim 16, wherein the identifier tag of the second layer is characterized as a second identifier tag, wherein the retrieved information associated with the second layer is characterized as second information, wherein the pits and lands of the first layer further define a first identifier tag, and wherein the method further comprises:
recovering the first identifier tag from the first layer using a readback system which optically detects said sequence of pits and lands; and

using the recovered first identifier tag to access said database to retrieve first information from the database associated with the first layer, wherein both the first and second information are used to verify the second layer corresponds to the first layer prior to attachment of the second layer to the first layer to form said disc.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieved information comprises a title for the disc. ~~multi-layer optical disc of claim 8, wherein the disc is configured such that the first and second layers are sequentially read to recover the contents of the disc.~~

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the retrieved information comprises a history of steps taken during manufacture of the second layer. ~~further comprising a step of sequentially reading the first portion and the second portion of the contents of the disc while continuously rotating the disc.~~

28. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a first stamper with pits and lands configured to form a corresponding sequence of
pits and lands in a first layer of a multi-layer optical disc; and
a second stamper with pits and lands configured to form a corresponding sequence
of pits and lands in a second layer of the disc, the second layer comprising
an identifier tag which identifies the second stamper as corresponding to the

first stamper, the identifier tag comprising a reference value associated with the contents of the disc;

a computer system which stores a database in memory; and

a readback system coupled to the computer system and configured to read the pits

and lands in the second stamper to recover the identifier tag, to use the

recovered identifier tag to access the database and retrieve information

therefrom associated with the second stamper, and to use the retrieved

information to verify the second stamper corresponds to the first stamper.

29. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the pits and lands in the first layer of the disc define data including a table of contents (TOC) for said disc, and wherein the identifier tag further comprises at least a portion of the TOC.

30. (Previously presented) An injection molded article formed by the second stamper of claim 28.

31. (Previously presented) A multi-layer optical disc formed from the injection molded article of claim 30.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the readback system is further configured to test the stamper for defects prior to use of the stamper to form the second layer.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the retrieved information identifies a revision level of the stamper.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the retrieved information identifies a title for the disc.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the retrieved information comprises a history of steps carried out using the second stamper.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the readback system is further configured to communicate with the computer system upon said verification to update the database.

37. (New) A multi-layer optical disc, comprising:
a first layer which stores a first set of user data and a table of contents (TOC) for the disc; and
a second layer aligned adjacent the first layer which stores a second set of user data and a second identifier tag which identifies the second layer as corresponding to the first layer, wherein a copy of the second identifier tag does not appear on the first layer.

38. (New) The multi-layer optical disc of claim 37, wherein the first layer comprises a lead in area, a middle area and a program area therebetween, wherein the first set of user data is located in the program area, and wherein the TOC is located in the lead in area.

39. (New) The multi-layer optical disc of claim 38, wherein first layer further stores a first identifier tag different from the second identifier tag, the first identifier tag identifying the first layer as corresponding to the second layer.

40. (New) The multi-layer optical disc of claim 39, wherein the first identifier tag is located in the middle area.

41. (New) The multi-layer optical disc of claim 37, wherein the second layer comprises a middle area, a lead out area and a program area therebetween, wherein the second set of user data is located in the program area, and wherein the second identifier tag is located in a selected one of the lead out area or the middle area.